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Apology to our readers

Due to some technical problems we have been obliged to interleaf The Daily Star for the last few days. This has also caused inconvenience to our valued readers. We hope to be able to print the paper in our usual format within a few days. We regret the inconvenience caused.

NEWS BRIEFS

BSP election January 20

The election of Bangladesh Sangbadpatri Parishad (BSP) will be held on January 20 at its office from 10 am to 1 pm, a press release said here yesterday. The election results will be announced the same day at 2 pm. Under the new election schedule, nomination papers will be scrutinised and list of contesting candidates will be announced on January 10, reports BSS.

Fire kills two in Keraniganj

The people were roasted alive in a fire at the Alamnagar Dock in Keraniganj thana of the district early Thursday, police and fire service sources said. One of the victims was identified as Helaluddin while identity of the other could not be known. The bodies were sent to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue. The victims, workers of the dock were engaged in welding of a launch 'Mamun-1' when the fire broke out after midnight Thursday, reports UNB.

IEB convention begins Jan 22

The 37th convention of the Institution of Engineers of Bangladesh (IEB) will be held at Rajshahi from January 22 to 26, a press release said. The convention was earlier scheduled to be held from January 9 to 13, reports BSS.

57 more held on various charges

Police rounded up 57 people from different parts of the city in last 24 hours on various charges, a DMP press release said Thursday. The arrested include one wanted criminal, one accused of murder, three on charge of burglary and four for stealing, reports UNB.

Iraq rejects Allied ultimatum

NICOSIA (Cyprus), Jan 7: Iraq on Thursday rejected an ultimatum to remove surface-to-air missiles from a no-fly zone imposed by the Gulf War allies in southern Iraq, increasing the likelihood of renewed military action, reports AP.

"It is the right of Iraq to deploy air defenses throughout the country," Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz was quoted as saying Thursday by the official Iraqi News Agency, monitored in Cyprus.

"Iraqi pilots are not prohibited from flying in the skies of

their country for training and patrol purposes."

Baghdad's defiant move raised tensions and increased the odds that the allies would take major military action

WASHINGTON, Jan 7: The Pentagon said today that Iraq had begun moving anti-aircraft missiles positioned near the UN-imposed no-fly zone in southern Iraq, but it remained unclear whether the movement was a withdrawal, reports AFP.

against Iraq for the first time since the 1991 Gulf War after the ultimatum expires at 2230 GMT Friday.

The agency said Aziz rejected the "American threats" — a reference to the allied ul-

timatum. He said any aggressive action against Iraq would be a violation of international law.

The ultimatum, delivered to Iraq's UN ambassador

WASHINGTON, Jan 7: The Pentagon said today that Iraq had begun moving anti-aircraft missiles positioned near the UN-imposed no-fly zone in southern Iraq, but it remained unclear whether the movement was a withdrawal, reports AFP.

Wednesday, was drafted by the United States, France, Britain and Russia.

They ordered Iraq to remove its missile batteries from below and around the 32nd parallel, the northern limit of

the air exclusion zone, or risk military retaliation.

The current confrontation began Dec 27, when Iraqi MIG-25s began intruding into the no-fly zone. One was shot down that day by a US F-16, but the incursions have continued, possibly in an attempt to lure allied warplanes into range of the missiles.

Wednesday's allied ultimatum came after Iraq moved some mobile Soviet-made Sa-2 and Sa-3 surface-to-air missiles into the zone over the last few days.

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Malaysian custodian Khairuddin Bin Idris leaps in the air to gather a ball in yesterday's only match of the 7th President Gold Cup football tournament between Krylia Sovetov of Russia and Malaysian Olympic team. The Russian side won the match 2-1. —Star photo

Delhi seizes land around Babri Mosque site

NEW DELHI, Jan 7: The government on Thursday seized land around a disputed holy site in the northern town of Ayodhya where Hindu militants had destroyed a Muslim mosque last month, reports AP.

Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao's government issued an ordinance taking over several plots totalling about 67 acres (27 hectares), in a bid to resolve the 43-year-old dispute that has created a deep chasm between Hindus and Muslims, India's two main religious groups.

The Dec 6 demolition of the 16th century Babri Masjid mosque triggered week-long

Hindu-Muslim riots across India, leaving at least 1,200 people dead and more than 5,000 injured.

The acquired land is around a makeshift temple that was hastily erected by thousands of militant Hindus on the site of the demolished mosque before they were driven away by security forces.

Both Hindus and Muslim contest the site and a total of 70 suits are pending in courts for ownership rights.

The ordinance nullifies all these cases and asks the Supreme Court to decide on the ownership.

Hindu zealots claim the mosque was built by Muslim

invaders after demolishing a Hindu temple dedicated to warrior god, Rama. They want to build a grand Rama temple on the site. The plan is backed by the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party, the country's largest opposition party.

Rao has been under increasing pressure from Muslim groups to rebuild the mosque. Other opposition parties and members of his own Congress Party also have accused the Prime Minister of vacillating on taking a decision to resolve the issue.

The ordinance, which is formally promulgated by the

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Russians win in President Cup

Sports Reporter

Krylia Sovetov of Russia won their first match of the 7th President Gold Cup football tournament beating Malaysian Olympic team 2-1 at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

The winners led the first half with a spectacular goal from Evgen Harlatchev in the 39th minute of the match.

The Malaysian Olympic squad drew level eight minutes into the second half with Sanbagarnan nodding the ball past an advancing Krylia goalie.

Vladimir Philippov nodded the ball off a cross from the left flank in the 31st minute of the second session to seal the fate of the match. [Detailed Story on Page 8]

Bangladesh not subject to global warming!

By Asiuzzaman

A senior meteorologist said Thursday that Bangladesh was not warming because of the so-called greenhouse effect and that there were no major changes in its climatic pattern during the past four decades.

"I have consulted the data of 40 years and found the average mean pressure over the country has remained nearly unchanged," Sazedur Rahman, Deputy Director of the Meteorological department said adding that "during the period there was no trend of temperatures rising rather they fell slightly."

His findings contradicted previous reports that Bangladesh was one of the main sufferers of the greenhouse effect causing global warming. Rahman has prepared a paper on his findings titled "Urban climate in Bangladesh" to be presented at a seminar scheduled to be held in Dhaka in March.

His report is based on climatological data from 16 observatories across the country, preserved in the Meteorological department since 1951.

Rahman showed in charts and graphs that the average mean pressure during the decade 1951-60 was 1008.7 hecta pascal (HPA) that was 1009.3 HPA during 1981-90.

Atmospheric pressure is closely related with the temperature and if the pressure

rises the temperature falls and vice-versa.

He said that the average mean temperature during 1951-60 was 26.8 degree Celsius that was 25.2 degrees in the 1981-90 period. The 30-year average (1951-80) was 25.7 degree Celsius which went slightly down to 25.2 degrees in another 30 years since 1961.

According to the study report the highest ever maximum temperature was recorded at 45.1 degree Celsius May 18, 1972 in Rajshahi and the minimum lowest of the country was recorded at Srimangal at 2.8 degrees February 4, 1968.

There was no major change in rainfall trend which was 2,346 mm during the decade 1951-60 and 2,415 mm during 1981-90 over the country, the report added.

The average rainfall between 1951 and 1980 and 1961-90 was 2,286 mm and 2,309 mm respectively.

A report published in Dhaka in November said that "Bangladesh is warming and the country's temperature is likely to grow hotter in the next 50 years."

The report was prepared by a final year student of the Dhaka University Geography Department under the supervision of Prof M Aminul Islam.

Cast vote judiciously in pouira polls: Hasina

BRAHMANBARIA, Jan 7: Awami League President Sheikh Hasina today appealed to the people to exercise their franchise judiciously in the upcoming pouirasha elections being held at a time when the country is in 'deep crises', reports UNB.

Addressing a big rally at the local supermarket premises, the leader of the Opposition in Parliament accused the ruling BNP of reneging on its promises made to the electorate in the last parliamentary elections.

"Don't make mistake again in choosing the right man," she told the rally.

Hasina, now on a two-day organisational tour of eastern districts of Habiganj, Moulvibazar and Sunamganj, alleged

"Misrule" of the government had further deepened the crises in socio-economic life in last two years.

The government not only failed to fulfill its election pledges but its wrong policy, incompetence and mismanagement bred new problems aggravating plight of the people.

"Democracy is at stake, economy is in shambles, life and property of the citizens are endangered and national independence and sovereignty at stake due to the BNP rule," Hasina said.

Describing BNP rule as "Neo-autocracy", the Opposition leader said although democracy was achieved and parliamentary system introduced. See Page 12 Col 7

Premadasa arrives Jan 12

COLOMBO, Jan 7: Sri Lanka today announced that the aborted summit of South Asian leaders in the Bangladesh capital Dhaka would go ahead as rescheduled on January 13 and 14, reports AFP.

Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa, who holds the Chairmanship of the seven-nation South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), would arrive in Dhaka Tuesday for the two-day summit beginning Wednesday.

Premadasa's International Relations Advisor Bradman Weerakoon said indications so far were that the rescheduled summit would take off on January 13.

Weerakoon said Premadasa was scheduled to visit India on a Buddhist pilgrimage from January 15 to 17 on his way back from the Dhaka summit.

US importers want garments made without child labour

By Inam Ahmed

Campaign against the import of goods manufactured by child labour, has compelled many of the US garment importers to incorporate clauses in their Letter of Credit (LC) asking Bangladeshi exporters to ensure child-labour-free products.

But some of the garment importers, Walmart, one of the largest chain store in US, has shown its firmness to continue import of Bangladeshi garments without locking into the

See Page 12 Col 8

20 killed in Bombay riots

BOMBAY, Jan 7: At least 20 people have died in two days of clashes between Hindus and Muslims in Bombay as communal violence spread to more areas in India's business and commercial centre, police said today, reports Reuter.

Extra troops were sent into parts of the city after rival groups clashed with swords, stones and guns and set fire to buses, cars and shops.

However, normal life in most parts of the city was unaffected.

Indian Television said that Governor of Maharashtra state, of which Bombay is the capital, had resigned. It did not give reason for C. Subramaniam's resignation.

Diarrhoea in coastal dists claims 50 in 2 weeks

By Staff Correspondent

Diarrhoea has broken out in an epidemic form in the coastal districts of Barguna, Pirojpur, Bagerhat and Khulna.

According to reports reaching Dhaka, over 50 persons died of the disease and several thousands were attacked during the last two weeks.

Shortage of safe drinking water is the main reason for the outbreak of diarrhoea, said sources concerned.

Our Staff Correspondent from Barisal adds: Four more persons died of diarrhoea Wednesday and over a thou-

sands were attacked as the disease broke out in an epidemic form in ten villages of Barguna district.

The dead were identified as Zinnat Ali Khan, 42 and Altaf Hossain, 25, of Lakurtala village, Moinuddin, 70, of Khazurtala village and Aztunessa, 45, of Mansatala village.

With the new deaths, the official death figure rose to 12 while unofficial figure now stands at 20 in one week.

Diarrhoea broke out in the area due to acute shortage of drinking water as hand tub-

wells are not functioning as ground water level has subsided.

At present, 38 medical team are working in the affected area with 13 doctors. Civil Surgeons in the area said that the number of doctors and health workers was too meagre to cope with the situation.

According to reports received from Pirojpur, at least five persons died of diarrhoea in the district in 24 hours while several hundreds were

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White Panel sweeps DUTA polls

By DU Correspondent

Dr K M Mohsin and Dr Badrul Alam from the White Panel have been elected President and General Secretary respectively of the executive committee of the Dhaka University Teachers' Association (DUTA).

The election of the DUTA 15-member working committee for the year 1993 was held at the Dhaka University Club yesterday. The White Panel has won six other posts including the posts of the Vice President and Treasurer while the Blue Panel has got five posts including that of the Joint Secretary.

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Israel allows Red Cross men to visit Palestinian deportees

JERUSALEM, Jan 7: Israel agreed for the first time Thursday to allow two Red Cross representatives to visit the 415 Palestinian deportees in a no-man's land in South Lebanon, state radio reported, reports AFP.

A doctor and a representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross would take a helicopter to the camp between Israeli and Lebanese lines, the radio said without giving a date for the trip.

AP adds: Rabin reversed his earlier refusal to allow visits by

the Red Cross in response to a new appeal Wednesday night made by the Red Cross officials.

Both Israel and Lebanon have refused to allow relief supplies to reach the deportees, since Israel deported them Dec. 17 and the Lebanese government refused to accept them.

The about-face came several hours before UN envoy Chinmaya Gharekhan was due in Israel to try to persuade Rabin to permit the shipment, and amid threats the Security

Council may impose sanctions on Israel if it continues to refuse to let supplies through.

In a Dec. 19 resolution, the Security Council condemned the deportations as a violation of international law and demanded the men be allowed to return to the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Defense Ministry spokesman Oded Ben-Ami said the Red Cross request specified that it did not expect that the deportees would require immediate relief supplies.

The men have apparently been getting food and

medicine smuggled to them by sympathetic Lebanese villagers, but there has been concern that some of the deportees may be ill from exposure to the cold.

Rabin ordered the deportations in his capacity as defense minister, and Ben-Ami is his spokesman on Defense Ministry matters.

Israel radio said two Red Cross representatives would be permitted 'on a one-time basis' to visit the deportees, travelling by aircraft through zone patrolled by UN peacekeepers in south Lebanon.

Advertisement for Bangladesh Prakashal Vishwavidyalaya, Dhaka. Includes details about the 1993 Convocation, exam dates, and contact information.